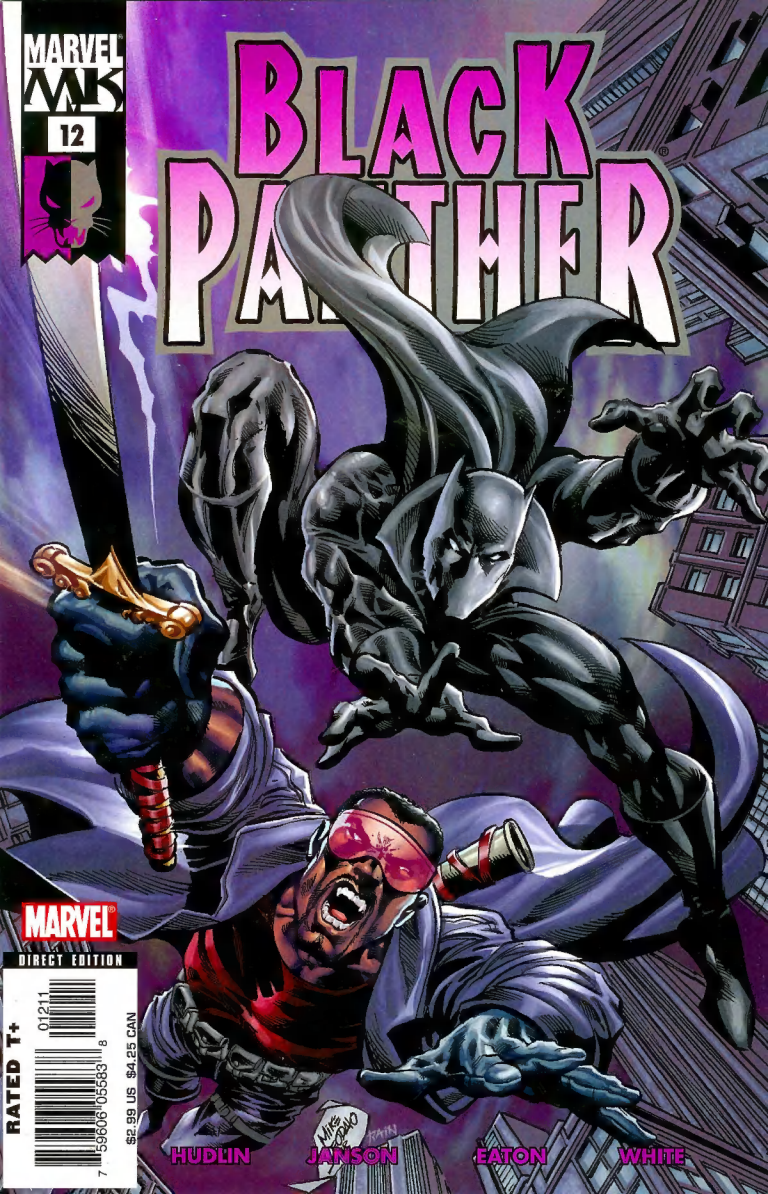


MARVEL
MK

12

BLACK PANTHER



MARVEL

DIRECT EDITION

RATED T+

01211



5960610558318

\$2.99 US \$4.25 CAN

HUDLIN

JANSON

EATON

WHITE



PREVIOUSLY

There are some places you just don't mess with. Wakanda is one of them. Since the dawn of time, that African warrior nation has been sending would-be conquerors home in body bags. While the rest of Africa got carved up like a Christmas turkey by the rest of the world, Wakanda's cultural evolution has gone unchecked for centuries, unfettered by the yoke of colonization. The result: A hi-tech, resource-rich, ecologically-sound paradise that makes the rest of the world seem primitive by comparison.

Ruling over all this is the Black Panther.

The Black Panther is more than just the embodiment of a warrior cult that's served as Wakanda's religious, political and military head since its inception. The Black Panther is the embodiment of the ideals of a people. Anyone who'd dare to make a move on Wakanda must go through him.

Every kingdom must have its Queen, and T'Challa's mother has decided it is time for him to choose a wife.

After turning away an attack, and a potential bride, from the Chinese warlord known as "Han", T'Challa and the New Avengers' Luke Cage return to the United States where something foul has taken hold in New Orleans...

Black Panther (ISSN #1540-0255) No. 12, March, 2006. Published Monthly by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10018. APPLICATION TO MAIL PERIODICAL POSTAGE RATES IS PENDING AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2006 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. We similarly reserve any of the names, characters, persons, and/or symbols in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$2.50 per copy in the U.S. and \$4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032692) in the direct market and \$2.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$4.26 in Canada (GST #R127032692) through the newsstand. Canadian Agreement #40665337. Printed in the USA. Subscriber rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. \$27.00; Canada \$37.00; Foreign \$39.00. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO Black Panther, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 30529 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84130-0529. TELEPHONE: (801) 217-9158. FAX: (801) 208-0877. subscriptions@marvelbooks.com. AVI ARAD, Chief Creative Officer, ALAN FINE, President & CEO of Marvel Toys and Marvel Publishing, Inc.; DAVID BOGAR, VP of Publishing Operations; DAN CARR, Director of Production; JUSTIN F. GABLER, Managing Editor; ZYAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Malins, Advertising Director, at jmalins@marvel.com or 212-576-3534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.



YOU KNOW
WE IN TROUBLE,
RIGHT?



MOMMA SAID
BE HOME 'FORE
DARK.

YOU
SCARY.

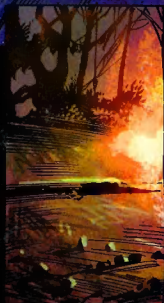
I AIN'T
I JUST SAYING,
WE GONNA GET
A WHUPPING
FOR SURE.



I TOLD
THEM BOYS
GET HOME
'FORE DARK.



PLEASE, JESUS,
BRING MY BOYS
HOME SAFE. DON'T
LET THEM GET
MY BOYS...





YOU THINK WE
CAN'T SMELL YOU
BOYS? I CAN SMELL
THE SWEAT ROLLIN'
DOWN THE BACK OF
YOUR NECKS.



WHOO-HOO!
NOW WE GOT
US A HUNT!

THIS
WAY! THIS
WAY!



NOW
WHAT?

PARTY
TIME,
BOYS!





WHO
THE HELL
ARE--

SHUNK

YOU MUST
BE NEW AT
BLOODSUCKING.

OR ELSE
YOU'D BE
RUNNING
NOW.

WHACK

NAME'S
BLADE. I KILL
VAMPIRES DEAD. IF
YOU DON'T KNOW,
NOW YOU DO,
CRACKERS...

YOU MIGHT
BE A BIG DEAL
WHERE YOU CAME
FROM, BOY--

--BUT THIS IS THE SOUTH!
EVEN 'FORE WE GOT THE
HUNGER--





REGINALD
HUDLIN
WRITER

SCOT
EATON
PENCILS

KLAUS
JANSON
INKS

DEAN
WHITE
COLORS

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JOE
QUESADA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

DAN
BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE
OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...

YOU'RE MY
MAN AND ALL,
T'CHALLA, BUT I
THINK YOU SHOULD
HAVE THOUGHT
THAT ONE
OVER A LITTLE
MORE...

THAT GIRL WAS
BEAUTIFUL! AND
YOU SAVED HER LIFE!
YOU COULD HAVE
AT LEAST--

I'M LOOKING
FOR A WIFE, LUKE.
NOT A GOOD TIME.
WHY LEAD THE
POOR GIRL ON?

I SEE YOUR
POINT--SORT
OF. YOU GOT IT
LIKE THAT, IT'S
GOOD TO BE
KING.

WHY DIDN'T
YOU ASK HER
OUT?

IN MY BACHELOR
DAYS--NO DOUBT.
BUT NOW....

BESIDES, MY CLOTHES WERE
ALL BURNED UP BY THAT
DRAGON. THAT SORT OF THING
THROWS YOUR GAME OFF.

THE ROBES
OF WAKANDA
SUIT YOU, MY
FRIEND.

KLINK

DON'T WORRY--I'LL SEND
THEM TO THE CLEANERS
BEFORE I RETURN
THEM.

THOSE ARE
A GIFT. PLEASE
DON'T EMBARRASS
ME BY NOT
ACCEPTING.



ARE YOU KIDDING? HELL YEAH, I'M ACCEPTING! WAIT 'TIL THE OLD HEADS AT THE HUE MAN BOOKSTORE UPTOWN CHECK THESE OUT!

WOULD YOU MIND ANOTHER DELAY BEFORE YOUR RETURN HOME?

WHAT'S UP?

NICE. THAT'S A STRONG STATEMENT.

I SHOULD WARN YOU, THIS IS NOT JUST A PRESS CONFERENCE.

WHAT, YOU WANT ME TO DO SOME HEAVY LIFTING? I'M DOWN.

THERE WILL BE SOME HUMANITARIAN WORK, BUT ALSO SOME COMBAT.

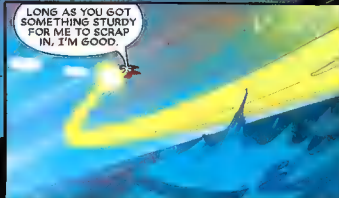
PUT SOME HEADS TO BED? NO PROBLEM. ANYONE IN PARTICULAR?

CERTAIN PREDATORY ELEMENTS ARE EXPLOITING THE HUMAN TRAGEDY, AND THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "PREDATORY"?

IN EVERY SENSE. FROM MARAUDING GANGS TO REAL ESTATE SPECULATORS LOOKING TO PERMANENTLY DISPLACE POOR PEOPLE FORCED FROM THEIR HOMES.

LONG AS YOU GOT SOMETHING STURDY FOR ME TO SCRAP IN, I'M GOOD.



NEW ORLEANS...

ANYONE
SEEN MRS.
CHARMAINE
ROMEAU?
ANYBODY?

■ THIS
HER HOUSE,
DAD?

YOU USED TO PLAY IN
YOUR AUNT'S BACKYARD
ALL THE TIME WHEN
YOU WERE A KID,
MONICA.

PLEASE, DAD,
YOU STOPPED
SPEAKING TO HER
TWENTY YEARS
AGO WHEN SHE
REMARRIED--

DON'T EVEN
MENTION THAT
FOOL'S NAME. IT'LL
MAKE ME TURN THIS
SHIP AROUND.

DOORS AND WINDOWS
ARE ALL UNDERWATER.
BUT SHE MIGHT ■■■ IN
THE ATTIC.

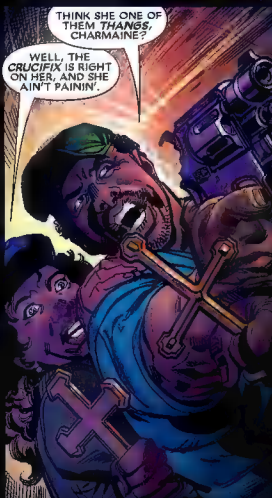
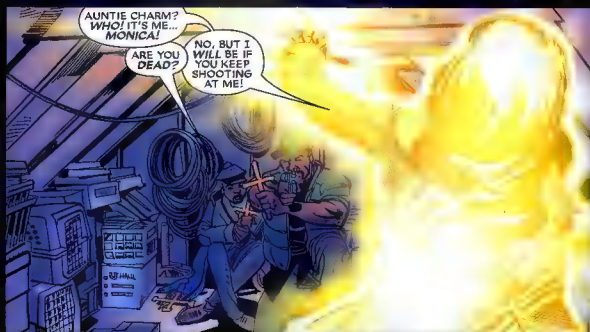
HATE TO
KNOCK A HOLE
IN HER ROOF FOR
NO REASON.

YOU
KNOW
WHAT TO
DO.

NO ONE
LOOKING,
RIGHT?

NOT THAT
I CAN SEE.
GO FOR IT.





FIVE MINUTES LATER...



...AND IF YOU ~~EVER~~ TRY AND HARM MY DAUGHTER AGAIN, I'LL--

DAD! IT WASN'T THEIR FAULT. THEY THOUGHT THERE WERE VAMPIRES OUT THERE.

THERE WASN'T NO "THOUGHT" TO IT. THERE ARE.

SEE, THERE HE GO AGAIN. I TOLD YOU HE WAS A FOOL WHEN YOU MARRIED HIM, CHARM.

NO, THIS WAS REAL.



"EVEN AS CUT OFF AS WE WERE, YOU'D STILL GET NEWS FROM OTHER FOLKS STUCK IN THEIR HOUSES...OR FOLKS ON RAFTS PASSIN' BY."

"FIRST, WE JUST THOUGHT IT WAS THEM BOYS FROM THE NINTH WARD, THEM HOODLUM BOYS TAKIN' ADVANTAGE."

"THEN, LATE AT NIGHT... WE'D SEE THINGS. THINGS DIDN'T MAKE NO SENSE. I MEAN, THEY COULD DO THAT IF THEY HAD TO BREATHE, RIGHT?"

"THEN...THEY'D, THEY'D...FEED..."



HELL, F.E.M.A. COULDN'T FIX THE LEVEES IN TIME. HOW THEY GONNA HANDLE THIS?



ELSEWHERE...

MY GRANDDADDY
USED TO SAY THAT
TROUBLE IS OPPORTUNITY
■ WORK CLOTHES,
AND THAT'S HOW WE
GOTTA SEE THIS
SITUATION.



NOW I GOTTA
USE A BUCKET OF
WATER FROM MY POOL
TO FLUSH MY TOILET.
BUT DO YOU SEE ■
COMPLAINING? NO,
YOU DON'T.

YOU WILL
WHEN I USE
YOUR FACILITIES
AFTER LUNCH!

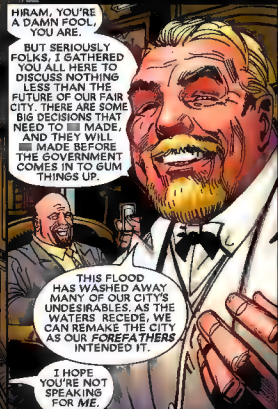


HIRAM, YOU'RE
A DAMN FOOL,
YOU ARE.

BUT SERIOUSLY
FOLKS, I GATHERED
YOU ALL HERE TO
DISCUSS NOTHING
LESS THAN THE
FUTURE OF OUR FAIR
CITY. THERE ARE SOME
BIG DECISIONS THAT
NEED TO ■ MADE,
AND THEY WILL
MADE BEFORE
THE GOVERNMENT
COMES IN TO GUM
THINGS UP.

THIS FLOOD
HAS WASHED AWAY
MANY OF OUR CITY'S
UNDESIRABLES. AS THE
WATERS RECEDE, WE
CAN REMAKE THE CITY
AS OUR FOREFATHERS
INTENDED IT.

I HOPE
YOU'RE NOT
SPEAKING
FOR ME.



WHO?

COLONEL--WHAT
THE HELL IS
THIS?

THIS IS
NO TIME FOR
JOKES!

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
YOU GOT IN HERE,
BOY, BUT THEY ARE
GONNA CARRY YOU
OUT IN A BODY
BAG!





WHAT'S THE
MATTER? YOU
DON'T RECOGNIZE
FAMILY?



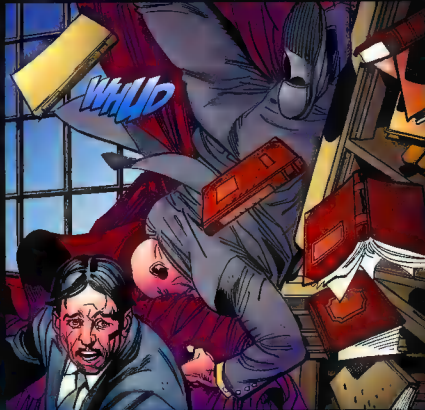
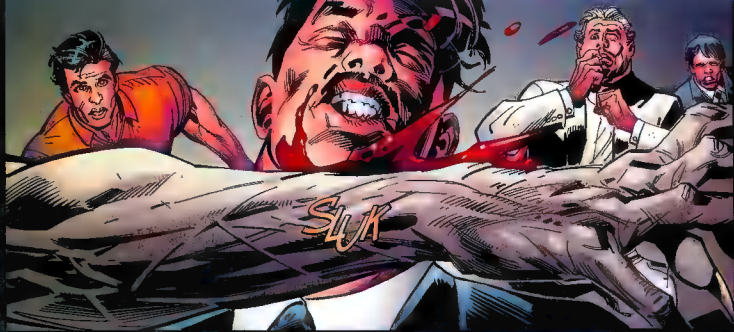
OKAY, SOME
DELUSIONAL REFUGEE
DRESSED LIKE IT WAS
MARDI GRAS ■ STINKING
UP THE ROOM LIKE HE
CRAWLED THROUGH A
SEWER TO GET HERE--
SECURITY!



LISTEN, FAT BOY, YOU
ARE NOTHING BUT A
SUCKLING PIG TO ME. SO
SHUT UP AND LISTEN
BEFORE I--



DROP
HIM, YOU
FREAK!







BUT I'M
VOLUNTEERING
MY HELP!

I DON'T CARE.
THIS IS A FEDERAL
MATTER. WE CAN'T
BE RESPONSIBLE
FOR YOU.

RESPONSIBLE FOR ME?
MY COMPANY HAS
BEEN DOING THIS KIND
OF WORK FOR YEARS!
WE WON'T EVEN NEED
A BOTTLE OF WATER
FROM YOU. PEOPLE
NEED HELP!

AND ARE YOU
PROUD OF YOUR
WORK SO FAR?

LOOK, MR. BASKETBALL STAR,
JUST BECAUSE EVERYBODY IN
UTAH THINKS YOU'RE A BIG SHOT,
DOESN'T MEAN A THING HERE.
WE ARE IN CHARGE.

YOU CROSS THIS LINE
AND YOU ARE GOING
TO JAIL! YOUR
EQUIPMENT WILL BE
IMPOUNDED, AND
YOU WILL---

OH LORD,
NOT ANOTHER
LEVEE BURST?!

YOU KNOW
WHO THAT IS,
RIGHT? YOU GONNA
CALL THE AIR FORCE
AND STOP HIM,
TOO?

IF HE'S IN,
I'M IN.

I'M
WARNING
YOU...

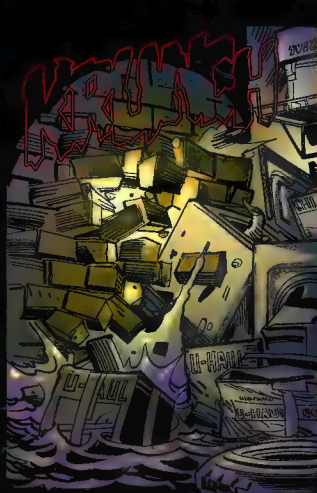


WHY DON'T
YOU PUT SOME OF
THAT ENERGY INTO
ACTUALLY HELPING
PEOPLE?

SMASH

FEMA





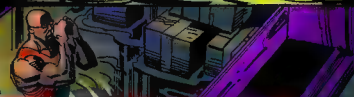
YO!
ANYBODY
THERE?

YOU SEE
SOMEONE'S
THERE?

YES, BUT THE
WELL... IS ALL
WRONG.



DON'T
SCARED, WE'RE
HERE TO HELP
YOU.



WELL THEN,
I'LL HELP
MYSELF!

HOW...THE...
HELL...COULD...
YOU...BE...SO
STRONG?



THE HUNGER,
DEAR BOY, THE
POWERS OF THE
AFTERLIFE!



LUKE, MOVE
TOWARDS THE
LIGHT.

NO! NO!
IT BURNS! IT
BURNS!

KRA!



THUNK



STINK WAS
RIGHT, DAMN,
I CAN'T BELIEVE
THAT... WAS
THAT!

AAIEEE!



NICE
WORK... FOR
AMATEURS.





...AND IT'S GETTING DARK!

NEXT ISSUE: **SOMEONE GETS BIT!**

...AND IT'S GETTING DARK!

NEXT ISSUE: **SOMEONE GETS BIT!**

MAIL TO THE KING!

Hi People of Wakanda,

I read **BLACK PANTHER** #9 just a couple of days ago.

About the comic: Love the beginning, the chaos in the streets, the ignorance mixed with poverty, and that poor guy, the victim of the blasphemers' punches just because he was saying the truth. Poverty and the constant abuse poor people receive, mixed together with ignorance, is a bad milkshake, yo. The poor need to defend themselves, but they don't know how and against whom. They are thirsty for justice, so another poor person is the victim. They are tired of injustice, but at the same time so confused. There have been similar cases here in Peru, in distant small towns. Some years ago, they burned alive a thief in the square because he had stolen a gas cylinder. In the '80s, during the civil war (between the army and the Communist group called Sendero Luminoso) there were cases of people that were killed or burned alive in those remote towns, just because you were a stranger. They were so scared, there were accusations of satanic worshippers, and things like that. You must be careful when you go to those small, forgotten towns (even more so if you don't speak the natives' languages). For example, I have some tattoos, and just because of that it could lead to confusion. You know what I mean.

Moving on, the pursuit for the two baddies, The Red Ghost (lovely villain) and Dr. Paine (What a death!), plus the talking monkeys, was really cool. Oh man, but the Panther riding Dragon Man? That was so unexpected. I loved that! It was so videogame. So simple and logical, but I would never imagine such a move by the Panther. Of course, Dragon Man was a kind of wild animal, and like one of them, the Panther had to break it in to use it for his benefit. Perhaps he will take him to Wakanda and create a special home for him.

T'Challa demonstrated all the time that he is a real hero. That he has control over uneasy situations, along with Ororo, the other strong character of the arc. Honorable mention to Wolverine, who didn't make out so bad. The rest of the X-Men looked like idiots. Especially Iceman and the empty-headed Havok, but they had their moments, too. It seems like The Red Ghost disappeared near the end of the story. A good balance, one villain dead, the other escaped.

The last page. The kiss. In my opinion it is going to be a classic image of the comic of the 21st century. Some friends tell me that it has been done so many times, that it is not spectacular anymore, but what can I say? I love this scene. It is so powerful, so meaningful, so in-the-right-place-at-the-right-time. Not just a kiss for a kiss. Nicely done, Reggie.

Guido Cuadros F.A.
via email

There's a lot behind that kiss, too, Guido, and you'll be able to find out just what

exactly in February's **STORM** mini-series. Only one short month away!

Dear Mail to the King,

What a superb comic. Dean White's palette and textures continue to impress. Klaus Janson eases off on the inking, giving the art a proper lush finish without going overboard with that wonderful trademark Janson scratchiness. Hudlin's choice of telling the story from Cage's point of view is keen, as we get great insight into his character and a choice access point to the story. Gary Frank's cover is striking with the enlarged outlines giving it a disco/retro feel, and to boot, Cage and BP are distinct, different sizes and heights. Congrats to Scot Eaton on his Marvel exclusive and a homerun on his premiere issue. Any artist who can give different characters distinct facial features is a cut above. Eaton goes three steps further by drawing black facial features, tossing in a celebrity likeness (Pookie), and keeping all the likenesses consistent for 23 pages. His storytelling is clear and his page layout is strong. I'm thrilled. I know the current thinking says we, the audience, get bored with the same artist on a book after too many issues. This is erroneous. We, the audience, want quality and consistency. This book is perfect for Eaton and I hope to see him still here at issue 30.

Tim Finn
via email

Glad to see you're as thrilled as we are to have Scot on board, Tim. Those retro rings on the #10 cover were the brainchild of Disco Dean White. His ideas run as deep as his sweet, sweet platform shoes, baby.

Dear Reggie,

When I first saw the ads for the new **BLACK PANTHER** series that read "...from the writer of *Boomerang* and *House Party*..." I thought, great, they get Whedon and now they're gonna get a bunch of Hollywood hacks in to do a bunch of crap books, or we get another Kevin Smith book that takes six years to put out six issues. I mean, *House Party* was good... *Kid n' Play* was just a lot of fun even without a script. But *Boomerang* sucked so bad I wanted to ask for a refund.

Well...I was...umm...wrong. You Kick @\$\$!

Next to Millar and Bendis, you are my favorite writer in comics. The first **BLACK PANTHER** arc was amazing...and the crossover arc with the X-Men only worked to show how much better a writer you are than Milligan (sorry I just don't like him). And issue #10... OH MY GOD...Luke Cage is one of my favorite heroes, and to develop the idea of such a powerful individual...such an independent and willful man as Luke Cage looking up to the King of Wakanda is just perfect. I can't believe no one ever thought to write it before. And the way you had them meet—the lack of a desire for confrontation from Luke without a hint of

apprehension or a bit of fear. Man, I just had to read it three times. And the ending...WOOOO BOY...I can't wait 'til next month.

Mike
Texas

Hey Mr. Hudlin,

First, I would like to say that I'm a huge fan of **BLACK PANTHER** and what you're doing right now to the character is amazing. From the story lines to the action, it's an all-around incredible book. I recently read issue #10 which guest-stars Luke Cage, and I have to say that I think this is going to be the best story arc yet. Which brings me to the second reason I'm writing you—I've noticed that certain characters, such as Spider-Woman, have gotten their own series, which is fine because she is a cool character. But what about Luke Cage? Luke Cage is by far one of the most popular black super heroes of all time. How come he hasn't received his own ongoing series? I think it's a shame to mankind to deny comic fans, such as myself, this honor. I think I speak for fanboys all over when I say "WE WANT LUKE CAGE IN HIS OWN BOOK!" And, it would be even better if you, Mr. Hudlin, were writing it. **Black Panther** is making his mark once again in the comic book world, and it's time Luke Cage, Power-Man did the same. Anyway, keep up the amazing work, Mr. Hudlin, Marvel and everyone involved in **BLACK PANTHER**. It's kicking @\$\$.

Eric Knowles
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

A lot of love out there for the **Bulletproof Brother**. Don't forget that Luke Cage is a regular member of the cast of the little title that could, **NEW AVENGERS**, as well as **THE PULSE**. If you're itching for a solo series, then shout loud and shout often. You know the email: spideyoffice@marvel.com

—Cory

NEXT ISSUE:



BATTLE IN THE BAYOU!

CORY SEDLMEIER
ASST. EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
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